

DARVEL AND DISTRICT

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

2014—2019



COMMUNITY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2020

The Community Action Plan set out the priorities for the development of Darvel over the 5 year period 2014-2019 as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement organised and led by local community organisations and local residents and carried out over a five months period in 2013.

DARVEL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN: ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

The Community Action Plan set out the priorities for Darvel and District determined by the community through an extensive consultation period in 2013

The plan was, and remains, for the whole community and is jointly owned by all organisations and local residents. It is now being updated and further developed through a further consultation to produce a Community Action Plan for the period 2020-2025.

This brochure details a number of the successful projects and developments which have been implemented over the past five years.



MAIN STREET AND TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Darvel & District Community Council has taken the lead in tackling Main Street regeneration liaising with East Ayrshire Council.

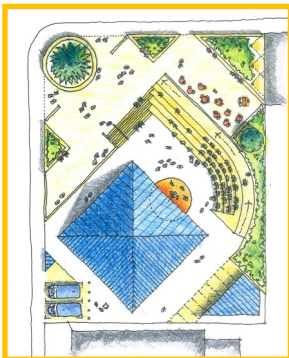
COOPERATIVE BUILDINGS

The community council has continued to pressure EAC to deal with derelict coop building and make representation to Historic Environment Scotland over the period of the Action Plan. In January 2019 confirmation was received that the building would come down. Demolition was carried out in September 2019.



MAIN STREET MARKET

Plans have now been finalised for the development of the Main St Market on the site of the cooperative buildings. In addition to providing a market location the development will offer a performance venue, a site for a range of community activities, a gathering point and a meeting place for cyclists and walkers.



HASTINGS SQUARE

Conversations with East Ayrshire Council resulted in a major improvement to Hastings Square with the tenement properties being painted in attractive pastel shades.



COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

DARVEL TOWN HALL

Concerns were expressed that the Town Hall and the library were in danger of being closed. Increased usage of the library and continued use of the Town Hall has ensured its existence continues.



SPORTS DARVEL

In 2013 the future of the Gavin Hamilton Sports Centre was very much in doubt. Darvel Community Trust was established to breathe new life into the facility. It has been transformed and the centre is a real focus for the community.

RECREATION PARK

The management committee has been revamped and with renewed enthusiasm Recreation park has seen a facelift with the introduction of new bar facilities, food stalls and a general tidy up. Darvel Juniors have also seen an upturn in match day attendances and are now very well supported.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

THE ROSE GARDEN

The Darvel Improvement Group through a renewable energy grant combined with local fund raising and sponsorship succeeded in complete transformation of the garden. The renovation of the rose garden is regarded as a tremendous achievement. Rarely a day goes by without residents and visitors spending time in the garden.



MAIN STREET PLANTERS

In addition to the Rose Garden, another major initiative of DIG was the placement of planters along the length of Main St, with each recognising a famous town character.

WEST END GARDEN

Community gardens have been established at the east end and west end A71 entry to Darvel. In particular, the West End garden is commented on favourably by both residents and visitors to the town .



LOCAL ECONOMY, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

DARVEL—A MUSIC TOWN

The establishment of the Darvel Music Company has seen the town become established as a national and indeed internationally recognised music venue. The music festival since its inception has proved very valuable to our community and the last 5 years have proved no different, with some bands choosing to make the festival their only UK date.



DARVEL'S HERITAGE

Darvel has a strong heritage primarily based around the former lace industry and Sir Alexander Fleming. Plans have been developed by Darvel Improvement Group for the complete revamp of the Sir Alexander Fleming memorial in Hastings Square.

The Darvel Heritage Museum, located in the Town Hall entrance, continues to attract numbers of visitors throughout the year.



VALLEY WALKFEST

The annual walking festival continues to attract numbers of visitors to the town and to our outstanding surrounding area.



OUR COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY

If there is one outstanding aspect of our community it is the extent to which residents engage in a whole variety of voluntary activities that lend much to the town. The range of voluntary work is considerable and includes:

The ***One O'Clock Gang***, the monthly ***Supper Club*** and the ***Darvel Pensioners Club***. The ***TWALK group*** organises regular walks around the area and ***Mothers & Toddlers group*** which meets weekly. Darvel Parish Church offers ***Pastoral care 'Friendship'*** lunch and a coffee morning on a monthly basis. ***Pastoral home visits*** are also provided and recently a community lunch for parents & children has been introduced. ***Darvel Crossroads Community Hub*** organises a number of groups run under the umbrella of the Community Hub (Mums & Bubbs; Ladies Mental Health Support Group; Games night; CHAT group; Fibromyalgia support group , the Craft Angels).

And we've probably missed others.



DARVEL SCARECROW FESTIVAL
MONDAY 14th OCTOBER to SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER
TO ENTER EMAIL JANIE ON:
rushjanie@gmail.com



DARVEL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING LOOKING TO 2020-2025

This pamphlet highlights many of the good things that have taken place in Darvel over the lifetime of the 2014-2019 Community Action Plan. But now we move on to the next phase—drawing up the Darvel & District Community Action Plan 2020-2025.

Consultation with the community has now reached the stage of voting for the priorities for the next five years at our DARVEL DECIDES event on 22 February from 10am to 1pm in Darvel Town Hall.

Voting will involve identifying priorities for 6 themes.

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS

LOCAL ECONOMY, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLBEING

